

## Surgical Incision and Drain Care

The following instructions will help assist in your recovery and prevent complications including infections

Please help prevent your infection

---

Signs of Infection	<p><b><u>Call your doctor immediately if you:</u></b></p> <p>Notice redness, swelling, increased warmth, increased pain or increased drainage from your incision Have a fever greater than 101 degrees Fahrenheit or Flu-Like symptoms Notice your incision is widening or opening up</p>
Emergency	<p><b><u>Call 911 if you:</u></b></p> <p>Experience changes in your ability to think or concentrate Begin bleeding from your incision and you cannot get it to stop</p>
Hand washing	<p><b><u>You and your caregiver should:</u></b></p> <p>Keep hands and fingernails clean by washing frequently Clean under your fingernails and around your cuticles Wash your hands using an antibacterial soap often and before touching your dressing , drain, incision and or wound</p>
Incision Care	<p><b><u>Follow your surgeon's instruction regarding bandage changes, showering or bathing</u></b></p> <p>Keep incision dry The use of lotion, ointments or powders are not recommended Use a fresh clean towel and washcloth for each encounter Avoid scratching, pressure or rubbing of incision- including clothing that rubs the incision Follow your surgeon's instruction regarding lifting or pulling objects &amp; when you may drive Keep pets away from incision</p>
Surgical Drains	<p><b><u>Follow your surgeon's instruction on how to care for your drain</u></b></p> <p>Do not touch your surgical wound or drain exit site unless instructed to do so by your surgeon</p> <p><b><u>Call your doctor immediately if you notice:</u></b></p> <p>Spreading redness around the drain or incision Increased pain, warmth or swelling around the drain or incision Cloudy or foul smelling drainage from the drain Have a fever greater than 101 degrees Fahrenheit or Flu-Like symptoms</p>
Surgical Housekeeping Instructions	<p>Change your sheets/linens prior to you coming home from the hospital and then twice a week Change sheets immediately if wet or soiled Clean washcloths regularly with bleach Clean toilets, sinks and tubs before each use with a house hold cleaner, preferably a cleaner with bleach Mop floors at least once per week with a standard floor cleaner All visitors and caregivers should wash their hands (or use an alcohol hand sanitizer) before and after visiting with you Take all medication as directed by your physician</p>

**\*\*Follow all provided discharge instructions (you may receive additional discharge instructions)\*\***

---

---